

CHAPTER III - THE TOWN MEETING

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Section 3-1. General

The Town Meeting shall have authority for final approval of those actions of the Town hereinafter enumerated, and when considering such actions said Meeting shall be deemed to be the legislative body of the Town. All persons deemed to vote in Town Meetings as prescribed in Sec. 7-6 of the General Statutes shall be eligible to vote in Town Meetings called pursuant to this Chapter and shall be eligible to vote in Special Referenda called pursuant to this Chapter.

Section 3-2. Annual Town Budget Meeting

The Annual Town Budget Meeting for the consideration of the Budget shall be convened in accordance with Sec. 9-1 of this Charter and shall be held not later than the third Monday in May at such hour and at such place as the Board of Selectmen shall determine. The Board of Selectmen may request the presence at such meeting of department heads and/or representatives of each Board, Agency, Commission or Committee of the Town.

Section 3-3. Special Town Meetings

Special Town Meetings shall be called by the Board of Selectmen for consideration of the following:

1. The issuance of bonds and all other forms of financing, the terms of which are in excess of one (1) year, in accordance with Charter Section 9-4.
2. Any appropriation supplemental to those provided in the Annual Budget which increases total supplemental appropriations in the current Annual Budget to an aggregate amount in excess of one-half of one percent (.5%) of the total current Annual Budget, in accordance with Charter Section 9-3c.
3. Real estate purchases by the Town.
4. The sale or disposition of any Town owned real property and the sale or disposition of any Town owned personal property whose value exceeds \$5,000.
5. The creation, termination or modification of any permanent Board, Agency, Commission, Committee or Department of the Town not otherwise provided for in this Charter.
6. Real estate leases and/or real estate lease options to which the Town is a party and which involves a term in excess of five (5) years.
7. Proposals for municipal improvements disapproved by the Town's Planning and Zoning Commission pursuant to the provisions of Sec. 8-24 of the General Statutes.
8. Such other matters or proposals as may be required by the provisions of this Charter, or as the Board of Selectmen, in its discretion, shall deem to be of sufficient importance to be submitted to a Special Town Meeting, including the adoption, modification or repeal of any Ordinance.

Section 3-4. Power of Initiative - Town Meeting Action

- A. The electors of the Town shall have the power to call a Town Meeting to:
 1. Adopt ordinances.
 2. Repeal or modify existing Ordinances.
3. Take actions on those matters enumerated in Sec. 3-3 of this Charter.
- B. The procedure to be followed shall be:
 1. A Petition may be filed by any elector of the Town with the Town Clerk and except as otherwise provided herein, such Petition shall conform to the requirements of Sections 7-9 and 7-9a of the General Statutes.
 2. Said Petition, or counterpart thereof, shall contain the full text of the Proposal and/or Ordinance and shall be signed in ink or indelible pencil by no less than 20 eligible electors of the Town as determined from the latest official lists of the Registrars of Voters.
 3. Said Petition, or counterpart thereof, shall be accompanied with affidavits signed and sworn to by each circulator as provided on Section 7-9 of the Statutes.
 4. The Town Clerk shall within ten (10) days after receipt of said Petition, determine whether the Petition and counterparts thereof received are sufficient as required by law, and if so, shall certify said Petition to the Board of Selectmen.

5. The Board of Selectmen may refer the Petition to the Town Attorney for his review and comments.
6. Within fifteen (15) days of the receipt of said Petition, so certified, the Board of Selectmen may hold a public hearing thereon.
7. Within fifteen (15) days of any such public hearing or the certification of said Petition, as the case may be, the Board of Selectmen shall call a Special Town Meeting to take action on said Petition.
8. At a Special Town Meeting, a vote of the majority of those electors voting shall be necessary to approve such Petition.

Section 3-5. Power to Overrule - Town Meeting Action

A. All actions, except the adoption of the Annual Budget, including a negative action, of any Town Meeting shall be subject to Overrule by a Referendum in the following manner:

1. If within ten (10) days after such action of the Town Meeting, a Petition conforming to the requirements of Sec. 7-9 and 7-9a of the General Statutes and signed in ink or indelible pencil, by no less than two hundred (200) qualified voters of the Town, as determined by the latest official voting lists of the Registrars of Voters, is filed with the Town Clerk requesting its reference to the voters of the Town at a Special Referendum, the effective date of such action, if an affirmative action, shall be suspended.
2. Said Petition, or counterparts thereof, shall be accompanied with affidavits signed and sworn to by each circulator as provided in Section 7-9 of the General Statutes.
3. The Town Clerk, within ten (10) days after receipt of said Petition, and counterparts thereof, shall determine whether said Petition and affidavits are sufficient as prescribed by law, and if so, certify said Petition to the Board of Selectmen.
4. Within fifteen (15) days of receipt of said Petition, so certified, the Board of Selectmen shall fix the time and place of said Special Referendum which shall be held not less than twenty (20) nor more than forty-five (45) days after certification of said petition. A notice thereof shall be given in the manner provided by law for the calling of a Town Referendum.

B. Any action so referred shall take effect upon the conclusion of such Referendum unless a majority of those persons voting thereon, shall have voted in favor of overruling such action. To the extent permitted by law, the aforementioned provisions are intended to supersede the applicable portions of Sec. 7-7 of the General Statutes.

Section 3-6. Procedure

A. All Town Meetings shall be called in accordance with Sec. 7-3 of the General Statutes by Resolution of the Board of Selectmen fixing the time and place of said Meeting. Notice of any such Meeting shall be given at least five (5) days in advance by publication in a newspaper having general circulation in the Town and by posting a notice in a public place.

B. All Town Meetings shall be called to order by the First Selectman or his representative. A Moderator shall be elected and all business conducted pursuant to Chapter 90 of the General Statutes. The Town Clerk shall serve as Clerk of all Town Meetings, or if absent, a Clerk may be designated by the Moderator.

C. Any Town Meeting may be recessed from time to time as the interests of the Town may require, and the Moderator may entertain a motion to recess such Meeting.